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YOU, YOU PAPYROPHILE, YOU

A recent editorial in a systems and procedures magazine eloquently caricatured many Organization employees.

The editorial "A Taste for Paper" spoke of discovering the "Papyrophile," whose name is derived from the Greek papyros-paper and philos-lover. About this paperlover it said:

"The human affinity for paper is a mysterious thing. People like paper. They collect it, treasure it, and measure their importance by how much they receive and send. They hoard it as the stamp collector hoards stamps, and they revel in it like a puppy rolling in a drift of autumn leaves."

The article divides these paperlovers into three species:

First there is the lover of other people's paper. This is the fellow who gets his name on all mailing lists, internal and external, and makes certain that every piece of paper he can gather is carefully filed away.

Next is the lover of his fellow man. This love expresses itself in the generation of numerous needless letters and memos, with the names of the humble and forgotten on the long carbon copy or cc list.

Finally there is the lover of his own paper. This last species will have in his files the first memo he ever wrote, his first, second, third, and fourth drafts of every project he ever worked on, and the final drafts too. He never refers to these things, but if you observe him going into his office when he thinks you aren't watching, you will see him bestow a loving pat on his battery of file cabinets.

The human affinity for paper is a widespread malady. That's why the Records Management Staff, very concerned with papyrophiles, has condensed this article for your self-diagnosis. Anyone need a mirror?

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